



2008-2009 Assessment Plan Report

PROGRAM ASSESSMENT REPORT AY 2008-2009

Report Date: August 15, 2009

School/College: School of Nursing

Department/Program: BSN program

Person completing the Report: Dr. Susan Prion, Associate Professor and Chair, DNP Program (formerly chair, Leadership and Advanced Practice Program)

1. **Overview Statement:** Briefly summarize the assessment activities that were undertaken this academic year, indicating:
 - a. which program learning outcomes were assessed this year.
 - b. who in your department/program was involved in the assessment of the above learning outcomes

All of the evaluation activities were undertaken under the direction of the SON Program Evaluation committee, the SON Curriculum Committee, and the four content departments within the School: Leadership and Advanced Practice, Adult Health, Community and Mental Health, and Family Health. The SON Academic Standards Committee reviewed any student grade appeals or applications for reinstatement after academic disqualification.

Declining HESI and NCLEX exam performance necessitated a thorough review of the current curriculum. During the 2008-2009 academic year, the full faculty undertook an ambitious revision of the entire undergraduate curriculum. Based on AACN standards, employer and student feedback, and a review of a variety of professional recommendations, the School adopted a conceptual framework for the new curriculum and revised the overall program outcomes. Based on those outcomes, we completely overhauled the curriculum and increased the emphasis on neglected content areas such as healthcare informatics.

2. **Please Answer the Following Questions for Each of the Student Outcomes Assessed:**

a. **What did you do?**

Describe clearly and concisely how you assessed the learning outcomes that were evaluated this year (e.g., measures, research methods, etc.). [please use bullet points to answer this question]

The HESI and NCLEX exams provide detailed individual and aggregate feedback about the performance of our students on these tests of nursing skills and knowledge. The SON Curriculum Task Force and the Departments did the following:

- Discussed aggregate performance on the HESI Exit exam for BSN students



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- Reviewed NCLEX performance by subject area after each administration
- Monitored progression patterns for BSN students and identified areas of difficulty by semester and course
- Received the recommendations of the Academic Standards committee about progression issues and individual student progression concerns
- Reviewed student course evaluation responses
- Conducted a curriculum mapping of current courses and student learning outcomes against BRN and AACN accreditation standards

b. What did the faculty in the department or program learn?

Summarize your findings and conclusions as a result of the assessment indicating strengths and weaknesses in student learning demonstrated by this assessment.

We learned that we were generally preparing students well for their role as a registered nurse, but were missing opportunities to increase student learning and overall student success. Students were so focused on the format of the HESI exam that they were not demonstrating mastery of the content. More opportunities to practice the HESI/NCLEX format should be included in the curriculum.

An unacceptable number of students failed one or two nursing support courses in their freshman year, and were effectively “lost” from the program because they had not yet made meaningful connections with their nursing advisors. The need for a momentous freshmen-level nursing course that could increase retention was identified.

c. What will be done differently as a result of what was learned?

Discuss how courses and/or curricula will be changed to improve student learning as a result of the assessment. Include a discussion of how the faculty will help students overcome their weaknesses and improve their strengths.

After a lengthy and spirited discussion, several activities were approved:

- Specialty HESI exams will be required in every course in which a relevant exam can be given
- The threshold for successful completion on the HESI exit exam was revised from percentile score to a weighted percentile.
- A complete revision of the BSN curriculum was completed. Of note is the development of a required freshman class named “Nursing in the Jesuit Tradition.”
- The Program Evaluation Plan was updated to reflect the ongoing monitoring of these results.

3. Attach a copy of the components of the department/program assessment plan that have been modified since its initial submission:



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- a. Program Mission
- b. Program Learning Goals
- c. Program Learning Outcomes
- d. Program Learning Rubrics aligned with outcomes
- e. Curriculum map that shows the courses that pertain to the outcome

Please return to: Provost Office by June 1, 2009

You can send your replies as either a Word attachment (to: marin@usfca.edu) or as a hard copy to: Provost Office, Lone Mountain Rossi Wing 4th floor.

If you have any questions, please contact: William Murry, Director of Institutional Assessment (wmurry@usfca.edu or x5486).